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gum, etc., which are available in the Nilgiris but not in the Malabar district. What the experts are reported to have examined in Malabar is the question regarding the making of writing paper from out of bamboo, etc.

Cost of living

* 148 Q.—SRI V. R. NAGARAJAN (on behalf of Sri K. Aranganathan) : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state the steps taken by the Government to reduce the cost of living in the months of April and May 1956 in the State?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : The rise in the cost of living during the months of April and May 1956 is due to the rise in the price of rice and other essential commodities. The steps taken by the Government to bring down the rise in prices of rice and other essential commodities and thus to reduce the cost of living index have been furnished in the statement placed on the table of the House with reference to the starred question No. 8 asked by Sri K. P. Gopalan, M.L.A. (answered on 9th August 1956).

SRI K. VINAYAKAM : Sir, do the Government propose to start fair price shops for selling rice in the City of Madras and, if so, when that proposal will be put into execution?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : Already the T.U.C.S. has been asked to start fair price shops for selling the rice that is supplied by the Government, and that society has been doing it. In addition, it has been proposed to start 55 fair price shops to be run by private merchants who are not dealing in rice. Out of this 55, 37 shops have already been started.

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP : May I know, Sir, whether, as a result of the measures taken by the Government, the price trend has gone upward or downward?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : I may say this much, Sir, that as a result of the efforts of the Government, so far the upward price trend has been considerably checked.

* SRI K. R. NALLASIVAM : விலைவாசி தூக்குதலாக இருக்கிற வரையில் நூறு ரூபாய் சம்பளம் வாங்குகிறவர்களுக்கெல்லாமாவது நியாயவிலைக் கடைகள் மூலம் அரிசி விநியோகிக்க அரசாங்கம் ஏற்பாடு செய்யுமா ?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : நூறு ரூபாய் சம்பளம் வாங்குகிறவர்களுக்கு மட்டும் என்ன ? விநியோகிப்பதற்கு ஏராளமான அரிசி இருப்பதால் மற்ற ஏழை மக்கள் எல்லோருக்கும் கிடைக்கச் செய்ய ஏற்பாடு செய்யப்படும்.

SRI S. C. VIRUPAKSHIAH : Sir, are the Government aware that distress condition is prevalent in Kollegal taluk for the past three and a half months and that the people are clamouring for the opening of fair price shops, and yet the Government have not taken any action in the matter?